



## Message Commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

By

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Speaking at the General Assembly's first Special Session on disarmament on 25 May 1978, French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing proposed that "a world institute for disarmament studies be established." Later that year, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 33/71 K, which asked the Secretary-General to submit a report on possible ways of establishing such an institute.

By 1980, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research started what would become a truly remarkable record of productive work to strengthen the factual and conceptual foundations of disarmament. Its bibliography of published books and reports over the last 30 years is extraordinary, both for their quantity and for their quality and substantive scope.

The Institute has maintained its autonomy in the UN disarmament machinery and its close working relationship with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. It has earned the respect of five UN Secretaries-General and its work has been well and repeatedly recognized by the General Assembly.

While its publications—available both in printed and electronic media—have been relevant to contemporary challenges, they have also addressed forward-looking and long-term issues, fully in accordance with its mandate under the UNIDIR Statute.

At a time when disarmament and non-proliferation education is gaining worldwide recognition for its important contributions in strengthening international peace and security, UNIDIR continues to contribute to this global effort—through its publications, the research opportunities that it offers to international scholars, its conferences and workshops, and its diverse networking and collaborative mechanisms.

All together, I believe these contributions have done much to foster the growth and development of a global community of scholars and practitioners in the field of disarmament. Yet UNIDIR has accomplished even more—it has been a positive factor in the renewed interest worldwide for the achievement of progress in all areas of disarmament.

So I am pleased today to thank UNIDIR's Director, Ms. Theresa Hitchens, and all her colleagues at the Institute for all their hard work in sustaining the high standard of excellence of the work of this Institute. If UNIDIR's next 30 years are as productive as its first, the foundation for future progress in both disarmament and international peace and security will be stronger than ever. So congratulations UNIDIR on your 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, and many happy returns.